

Message Text

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SUBJ: YUGOSLAV EDITORIAL COMMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

REF : (A) BELGRADE 3954; (B) MOSCOW 12297

1. SUMMARY. SCOPE OF MASSIVE YUGOSLAV MEDIA COVERAGE PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION COVERED REF A. SOME EDITORIAL COMMENTARY INITIALLY SAW NIXON REMOVAL IN SINISTER TERMS INVOLVING OPPOSITION TO DETENTE, BUT THIS LINE DROPPED SECOND DAY IN FAVOR OF VIEWING TRANSITION IN FRAMEWORK OF PRECEIVE WRONGDOINGS AND PRESSURES THEY GENERATED, AND STRESS ON CONTINUITY PARTICULARLY IN FOREIGN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST EDITORIAL OPINION IN YUGOSLAV MEDIA CAME IN AUGUST 9 ONE-COLUMN EDITORIAL ON BORBA PAGE ONE WHICH PURPORTED TO FIND UNKNOWN AND SINISTER FORCES BEHIND PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESIGNATION. LAMENTING NIXON DEPARTURE WHILE WORLD UNDERGOES "REARRANGEMENT FROM CONFRONTATION TO NEGOTIATIONS" IN WHICH HE SO "PERSONALLY INVOLVED", EDIT SAID COMPASSION AND CONCERN OVER THIS IS EVIDENCED "NOT BY THOSE WHO OWE HIM MOST AND WHO HAVE BEEN SEEING IN HIM THE GUARDIAN AND GUARANTOR OF THE SO-CALLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WESTERN WORLD AND ITS NEW-CAPITALIST AND NEW-IMPERIALIST REP-

RODUCTION, BUT CHIEFLY BY THOSE FROM THE RIVAL CAMP AGAINST WHOM AMERICAN WEAPONS OR AMERICAN ECONOMIC POWER HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AND TO WHOM NIXON HAS BEEN - WITH A NEW AURA OF INTERNATIONAL REALISM, DETENTE AND NEGOTIATIONS - A SPECIFIC CHALLENGE AND CHANCE FOR WORLD PEACE". EDIT CONCEDES THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN "NIXON'S FALL IS EXCLUSIVELY THE RESULT OF A PLOT OR COOPERATION OF FORCES WHICH ARE AGAINST HIS INCREASINGLY REALISTIC CONCEPT OF ARRANGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS". IT CONCLUDES THAT THE WORLD "CERTAINLY WILL SURVIVE BOTH NIXON'S FALL AND THE LOSS OF MANY FAMOUS STATESMEN OF GREATER VALUE AND MERIT, BECAUSE NOBODY CAN HALT THE PROCESS OF PROGRESS NOR CAN OPPOSE FOR LONG INTERNATIONAL REALITIES", AND THEN ADDS ENIGMATICALLY "AND YET, NOBODY CAN PREDICT EITHER WHETHER NIXON'S FALL IS AMONG THOSE WHOSE IMPACT LEAVES LASTING TRACES".

3. POLITIKA AUGUST 10 SAID THAT WHILE NO ONE CAN YET SAY WITH CERTAINTY WHAT KIND OF CHANGE THE REPLACEMENT OF NIXON BY FORD WILL BE, "MANY EXPECT, AND WITH GOOD REASON, THAT THE NEW CHIEF OF THE THE WHITE HOUSE, ESPECIALLY IN FOREIGN POLITICAL RELATIONS, WILL CONTINUE NIXON'S GENERALLY OPEN, RECOGNIZED AND IN GENERAL ACCEPTED COURSE". THUS, POLITIKA CONTINUED, THE WORLD IN BROAD TERMS WILL HAVE FEW REASONS TO BE DISTURBED BECAUSE OF THE SHOCK WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS EXPERIENCED". THE "PROFOUND CAUSES AND POSSIBLY WIDE CONSEQUENCES" OF THE CHANGES WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED HOWEVER, POLITIKA ADDS, BECAUSE "IF NOTHING ELSE, IT IS ENOUGH TO REMEMBER THAT AMERICA HAS CHANGED BOTH PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT IN THE SPACE OF A YEAR - RICHARD NIXON AND SPIRO AGNEW - IN A MANNER WHICH EVEN HER SOMETIME COWBOYISHLY STORMY HISTORY HAS NO PRECEDENTS".

4. A FOLLOW-UP POLITIKA COMMENTARY IN AUGUST 11 "INTERNATIONAL REVIEW" SECTION ATTRIBUTES NIXON RESIGNATION TO "PRESSURE OF PROOFS OF MISUSES OF POWER IN THE WATERGATE AFFAIR", SAYING THE FORMER PRESIDENT DECIDED TO RESIGN "PUTTING THE INTERESTS OF AMERICAN FIRST, AS HE EMPHASIZED IN HIS FAREWELL MESSAGE", "NIXON'S PERSONAL TRAGEDY," POLITIKA CONTINUED, "PRECISELY LIES IN THE FACT THAT IN HIS COUNTRY TRIUMPHS ABROAD WERE CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN FAR SMALLER THAN THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE WATERGATE SCANDAL". COMMENTARY CONCLUDES THAT "THE WATERGATE AFFAIR HAS BEEN A GREAT TEST AND TRIAL OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESERVATION OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM", WITH THE CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT THE INSTITUTIONS SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE TEST.

5. PERIODICALS NIN AND KOMUNIST FACTUALLY REPORTED REASONS FOR CHANGE OF PRESIDENTS AND STRESSED CONTINUITY OF FOREIGN POLICY ASPECT OF TRANSITION. WEEKLY EKONOMSKA POLITIKA, HOWEVER, INDULGED

IN NASTINESS, LINKING WATERGATE TO DECADE OF AMERICAN POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS WHICH WERE NEVER SATISFACTORILY EXPLAINED EITHER. REASON NO ONE UNDERSTANDS WATERGATE, ACCORDING TO EDIT, IS THAT ITS BASIC CAUSE IS SICKNESS OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM, WHICH SUPPORTS OR PERMITS "VARIOUS AMERICAN AGENCIES OR OTHER POWERFUL GROUPS TO OVERTURN GOVERNMENTS AND CAUSE GREAT BLOODSHED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD RANGING FROM VIETNAM, THE MIDDLE EAST, CHILE, CYPRUS AND SO FORTH, WHICH WILL COVER MANY PAGES WHEN PRESENT-DAY HISTORY IS WRITTEN". "NIXON IS IN SUBSTANCE A MIRROR OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN, RICH AND NOT LESS CONTRADICTORY, JUST AS IS ALSO HIS PERSONALITY."

6. BOTH BORBA AND POLITIKA AUGUST 11 CARRY STORY ON ZAMYATIN MOSCOW TV APPEARANCE (REF B), SAYING HE POINTED TO THE BEGINNINGS OF THE WATERGATE AFFAIR AS GROWING OUT OF THE "GREAT DEMOCRATIC LOSS IN THE ELECTIONS OF 1972". "THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE" WHICH WAS CREATED AROUND THE (WATERGATE) AFFAIR AND NIXON "WAS ONLY A VEIL WHICH DISGUISED THE INTERPARTISAN STRUGGLE IN THE US", ZAMYATIN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.
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